

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27, 29-30 and 37-44 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 17, 26, 37 and 41 are amended, and Claims 31-36 and 45-46 are canceled. Claims 3, 6-7, 14, 21 and 28 were previously canceled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that Claims 45 and 46 contain allowable subject matter. Corresponding subject matter has been added to independent Claims 1, 17, 26, 37 and 41.

Claim 4 is amended to depend from Claim 1, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to Claim 4.

Rejection of Claims 17-20, 23-27, 29, 30, and 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 17-20, 23-27, 29, 30, and 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,013, hereinafter "Jones") in view of Harada et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120927, hereinafter "Harada").

Independent Claims 17, 26, 37 and 41 contain subject matter corresponding to allowable Claims 45-46, and are therefore likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 17-20, 23-27, 29, 30, and 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones in view of Harada is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Harada and Lemon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,674,041, hereinafter "Lemon") in further view of Platt (US Publication No. 2002/0138349, hereafter "Platt").

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 45, and independent Claim 17 is amended to incorporate corresponding features. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, and 22 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones in view of Harada, Lemon and Platt is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Harada and further in view of Lemon and Wehmeyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,543).

Claim 8 depends from allowable Claim 1, and is therefore likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones in view of Harada, Lemon and Wehmeyer is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Harada and Lemon, and further in view of Walkingshaw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,488,423, hereinafter “Walkingshaw”).

Claims 10 and 12 depend from allowable Claim 1, and are therefore likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones in view of Harada, Lemon and Walkingshaw is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Harada and Lemon, and further in view of Fortenberry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,098, hereinafter “Fortenberry”).

Claims 15 and 16 depend from allowable Claim 1, and are therefore likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones in view of Harada, Lemon and Fortenberry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration on the merits and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: October 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
M. David Ream
Registration No.: 35,333
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(206) 262-8900
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant